

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 10
Lecture - 49
Grammar - Part 5
Modifiers & Active voice, Passive voice

Greetings to all,

So, we will continue with various aspects of Grammar. First aspect is modifiers and another is Voice i.e. Active and Passive Voice. This is something all of you must have learnt at your school. Modifiers are important to understand especially to make correct sentences in English Language required for competitive exams. Similarly, Voice is also important because the way you write and how you use the Active and Passive voices is also extremely important.

Before making all these presentations before you, I have consulted a couple of very good websites, particularly grammarly.com and other websites on the net; which specially pertain to Grammar. I would suggest that you also keep looking up these sites for further better understanding of English Grammar. You also have Martin Hewings book, Advanced English Grammar and More Basics. Please refer to Brandon Martin without any hesitation and doubt. So, coming back to what we are doing, a modifier changes or clarifies or adds particular phrase. For example, a sentence like – “Poor Geeta, a single mom with three infants has to work at two jobs.”

Now single mom with three infants becomes your modifier or qualifier. It adds, clarifies and limits a particular word in a sentence in order to give some description. Modifiers need or tend to be descriptive words. So a single mom is a modifier with three infant children. It is not like “Poor Geeta is working and taking care of three infants. It is not just that you are talking about Poor Geeta, a single mom. All these are qualifiers.

Remember modifiers phrases are, such, as adjective clause and adverbial phrases exist and tend to describe adjectives and adverbs. So, they add value and details of explanation to all this. In a sentence like poor Geetha, a single mom with three infant children is working at two jobs. Here, you have poor as adjective and single mom etc. is a clause and three infants are a

quantifier. All these expressions and clauses add meaning to the first sentence; that is Sheela or Geetha is working.

Only look at only “Geetha is working at two jobs”. How unadorned it is. But look at poor Geetha, a single mother of three infants or three infant children is working at two jobs. Look at how everything is modified. Modifier can be anything, a noun, adjective, a clause or an adverbial phrase. Remember that. Modifier is the key to make a good elegant and eligible sentence. Further remember that modifier placement can appear in a variety of ways, but most often, it comes in sentence correction, as I already told you. Dangling modifier and misplaced modifier are the two categories you have to look at.

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Sentences that include dangling modifiers typically begin with an introductory clause that describes the subject, but they do not name it immediately. They confuse a potential reader.